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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2096
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T FREETOWN 000389

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W (JHUNTER), INL/AE (SSNYDER)

EO 12958 DECL: 08/06/2018
TAGS SNAR, PREL, PGOV, PINR, SL

SUBJECT: COCAINE BUST: MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION SACKED,
DEA PARTICIPATION ACCEPTED

REF: A. FREETOWN 336 B. FREETOWN

Classified By: CDA Glenn Fedzer for reasons 1.4(b/d)

1. (S) Summary: Transportation and Aviation Minister Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay was relieved of his duties August 4, pending the conclusion of the cc
Minister Fired

2. (SBU) The repercussions of the July 13 cocaine bust at Lungi Airport (reftel A) continue to be felt, with Minister of Transportation and Av

3. (SBU) Sesay's removal from power is not a surprise. Media reports have called for his resignation since the bust, in large part due to the

4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX the President directly ordered SLP senior officers to refrain from arresting Kemoh Sesay. Instead, he was k

5. (C) The Sesay "brothers" are APC stalwarts with close ties to the President. Kemoh Sesay was originally elected as a Member of Parliament i

DEA Help Accepted

6. (S) Following an official USG offer made by diplomatic note on 1 August, the GoSL accepted DEA assistance and held a joint DEA-GoSL meeting
corrupt lower-level judiciary and police officials, and hoped that the DEA could indict and remove the traffickers from Sierra Leone as quickly

7. (S) Comment: XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX His stance on Kemoh Sesay's possible arrest contradicts previously reported information that he ir